

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Therefore, entry of the amendment is requested before further examination.

The control debris perforating system of claim 1 has been amended to recite that the shaped charge has a charge case, an explosive material and a liner. The explosive material and the liner are disposed in the charge case. The charge case defines at least one slot about which the charge case is adapted to fracture in response to the detonation of the explosive material.

Contrary to the limitations that are now set forth in amended independent claim 1, Renfro's shaped charge does not include a charge case that contains another liner and an explosive and defines at least one slot about which the charge case is adapted to fracture in response to the detonation of an explosive material. Thus, labeling Renfro's liner 50 as the charge case of claim 1 does not produce the claimed invention, in that the liner does not contain a liner and an explosive material. Therefore, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Renfro.

For similar reasons, claim 33, as amended, overcomes the § 102 rejection in view of Renfro. In this regard, the method of claim 33 now recites providing a shaped charge having a charge case and an explosive material and a liner that are disposed in the charge case. The charge case defines at least one groove about which the charge case is adapted to fracture in response to detonation of the explosive.

As amended, the method of claim 17 recites providing a perforating string that has one or more shaped charges. The shaped charges includes a charge case, an explosive material and a liner. The explosive material and the liner are disposed in the charge case. The charge case defines at least one slot about which the charge case is adapted to fracture. The method includes conveying the perforating string into a well.

Contrary to the limitations of amended independent claim 17, Chawla disclose a liner 36 in Fig. 4. However, neither Fig. 4 nor the associated text discloses providing a perforating string that has one or more shaped charges, where the shaped charges include a charge that defines at least one slot about which the charge case is adapted to fracture and where a liner and an explosive material are disposed in the charge case. Thus, the liner 36 of Chawla cannot be considered to be the charge case of amended independent claim 17, as Chawla's liner is not adapted to be disposed in a perforating string, such that the liner receives another liner and an

explosive material. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 17 overcomes the § 102 rejection in view of Chawla.

Newly-added independent claim 42 recites a control debris perforating system that includes a shaped charge that includes a charge case, which is adapted to receive an explosive material and a liner. The charge case defines at least one slot about which the charge case is adapted to fracture in response to detonation of the explosive material.

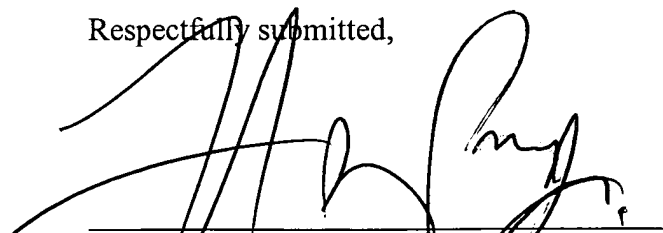
Contrary to the limitations that are set forth in claim 42, none of the cited art discloses a charge case that is adapted to receive a liner and an explosive material and defines at least one slot about which the charge case is adapted to fracture in response to detonation of the explosive material. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that newly-added claim 42 is patentable in view of the cited art.

Dependent claims 3, 6, 7, 18, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 34, 35, 43, 44 and 45 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable claims for the reasons that are set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SHL.0227US).

Respectfully submitted,



Date: January 21, 2009

Fred G. Pruner, Jr., Reg. No. 40,779
Trop, Pruner & Hu, P.C.
1616 S. Voss Road, Suite 750
Houston, Texas 77057
(713)468-8880 [Phone]
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]